

*of*  
**Nantwich Urban District.**

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# **REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.**

FOR THE YEAR 1903.

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NANTWICH :

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## NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT.

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### Report of Medical Officer of Health, FOR THE YEAR 1903.

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Medical Officer of Health :—DR. J. D. MUNRO.

Population at Census, 1901 :—7,722.

Estimated Population, middle of 1903 :—7,782.

Area in acres :—703.

Birth-rate per 1,000 living :—30·7.

Death-rate per 1,000 living :—19·1.

Death-rate from seven principal Zymotic Diseases :—2·8.

Deaths under one year to 1,000 births :—200.

During 1903 the *Births registered* in the District numbered 239.  
In first quarter 51, in second 56, in third 62, in fourth 70.

The number of *Deaths registered* was 149. Eleven deaths in the Workhouse Female Hospital (Nantwich Urban District) were persons not belonging to the District, and eleven deaths in the Male Hospital (Nantwich Rural District) belonged to this District. Therefore, the actual number of deaths belonging to the District was 149. In first quarter there were 36 deaths, in second 31, in third 45, in fourth 37.

**Infant Mortality**—Forty-eight of the deaths were infants under one year old, viz.:—9 Diarrhœa, 8 Whooping Cough, 10 Bronchitis or Pneumonia, 5 Congenital Debility, 3 Marasmus, 2 Gastritis, 2 Meningitis, 4 Convulsions, 1 Haemorrhage, 1 Spina Bifida, 1 Premature Birth, and 2 accidentally Suffocated. Thirty-four of the infants were under 6 months old at the time of death.

**Zymotic Diseases**—The number of cases notified was 28, viz.:—4 Smallpox, 12 Diphtheria, 7 Scarlet Fever, 1 Typhoid Fever, and 4 Erysipelas.

*The Deaths from Zymotic Diseases* numbered 22, viz.:—3 Diphtheria, 10 Whooping Cough, and 9 Diarrhœa.

The Zymotic death-rate was 2.8 per 1,000.

No cases were sent to the Crewe Isolation Hospital during the year.

**Smallpox**—Four cases were reported in the District. On January 7th, an infant was reported to be suffering from the disease in Hospital Street, in the house from which the father had 10 days before been removed to Smallpox Hospital. The case was a very mild one, as the child had been vaccinated the day the father was removed. It well demonstrates the way in which the disease is modified by vaccination, when the exposed person has been vaccinated soon after he has been infected from a Smallpox case.

The second case, on January 17th, was reported at the tramp ward of Nantwich Workhouse. He was at once removed to Hospital.

The third case occurred in a lodging-house in Barker Street, on February 11th, the man being a tramp. After the man had been removed to Hospital, I recommended that the lodging-house should be closed for a fortnight, and that the ten inmates should, if possible, be kept isolated for that length of time, and be boarded at the expense of the Council. This was done, and the inmates were re-vaccinated. The house was thoroughly

cleaned down and disinfected. These measures were successful in preventing any spread of the disease.

On June 26th, a man in First Wood Street was notified to be suffering from the disease. He was a native of the town, but it could not be traced how he became infected. He was also removed to Hospital.

All the cases recovered, and the last one was discharged on July 24th. The three last cases had all been vaccinated in infancy, and in each case the eruption was discrete.

Careful precautions were taken as to isolation of those who had been in contact with the infected persons, disinfection was thoroughly carried out, and all persons in the neighbourhood, who would submit, were re-vaccinated.

**Scarlet Fever**—Seven cases were notified. Strict precautions as to isolation and disinfection prevented any spread of the disease. No deaths.

**Enteric Fever**—One case was notified and recovered. It was clearly made out that this was contracted outside the District. The blood from two suspected cases was examined, and in each case gave a negative result.

**Diphtheria**—Twelve cases. They all occurred in the first quarter, and three of them died. Sanitary defects were found at most of the houses where these cases were.

**Diphtheria Antitoxin** was supplied free in ten instances to medical men in the District for the treatment of cases amongst the poor.

**Erysipelas**—Four cases were reported, and all recovered.

**Isolation Hospital**—Some progress has been made towards providing Isolation Hospital accommodation. On January 15th, a Local Government Board enquiry was held, and a loan was sanctioned for the purchase of a site at Alvaston. The Joint Hospital Board then directed plans to be prepared for the necessary Hospital buildings, and for application to be made to the Local Government Board for the sanction of a loan of £6,800 for the same.

An inquiry was held on December 3rd as to this loan for the Joint Hospital, and at the enquiry it was suggested that, in addition to the plans shown, an observation block should be provided at an additional cost of £1,000. The matter is now awaiting the report of the Inspector.

**Whooping Cough** was prevalent during most of the year. Ten deaths resulted from this disease, nine in the third and one in the fourth quarter. Four of these cases were complicated by Pneumonia, and six by Convulsions. With one exception, all the victims were children under two years of age.

Whooping Cough is the most fatal of all the infectious diseases of children under five years old, chiefly because parents amongst the poor cannot be made to understand that it is a dangerous disease, owing to the complications which often result.

**Measles**—Isolated cases occurred, but there were no deaths.

**Diarrhoea** caused 9 deaths. All infants under six months old.

**Lung Diseases**—*Phthisis* caused 6 deaths, equal to a death rate of .7 per 1,000. *Bronchitis and Pneumonia* caused 25 deaths, giving a death-rate of 3.2 per 1,000.

**Heart Disease**—Twelve deaths resulted from this disease, which gives a death-rate of 1.5 per 1,000.

**Inquests**—The following were held during the year:—

1—Infant, 1 month, verdict, “suffocated in bed.”

2—Girl, 6 years, verdict, “accidentally drowned.”

3—Man, 52 years, verdict, “natural causes.”

4—Infant, 9 weeks, verdict, “suffocated in bed.”

**New Property**—Seventeen houses have been certified, and fourteen are now in course of erection.

**Houses Demolished**—Twenty-five during the year.

**Private Street Works**—The second part of Cowfields has been sewered and made up under the Private Street Works Act, 1892.

**Improved Closet Accommodation**—Considerable improvements have been made. Fifty midden closets have been removed, ten being demolished, twenty replaced by W.C.'s, and twenty by pails.

There are now 497 W.C.'s, 1,350 pails, and 110 midden closets in the District.

**Sewage Disposal**—The Local Government Board refused to sanction the scheme for sewage disposal submitted by the Surveyor, and insisted upon the provision of an area of land for treating the effluent. The Council then decided that it would not be advisable to provide an irrigation area in such close proximity to the town as the site suggested.

The Surveyor was instructed to inspect various other lands and report on them, and the Council are now negotiating for the acquisition of the site which was thought to be most suitable.

**Sewers**—Numerous stoppages have been dealt with, and the construction of the sewers has been found to be very defective in many places where they have been opened.

A report by the Surveyor on the sewers of the town is required.

**Registered Lodging Houses**—Five in the District. One has been closed, and there does not appear to be any necessity for increasing the number at the present time. One case of infectious disease occurred in Weston's lodging house.

There has been no overcrowding. Seven midnight visits have been paid by the Inspector, and the houses at all times have been found clean and orderly.

**Registered Slaughter Houses** number 15. These have been regularly inspected and found in a cleanly state. None of the existing slaughter houses meet the requirements laid down by the Local Government Board.

**Dairies and Cowsheds** number 15. These have been regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

**Factories**—There are eight clothing factories and four shoe factories. The Factory Inspector on his last visit complained of insufficient closet accommodation at several factories and want of proper ventilation. These complaints have received attention.

**Water Supply**—The pressure on the water supply to the town has been very unsatisfactory and requires attention.

The quantity has been adequate, and the County Analyst's last report on the quality of the water was satisfactory.

**Baddiley Water Works**—The filter beds have been replenished and made up to normal level. The pipe tract from the reservoir to mere has been reconstructed. At the works everything is working satisfactorily.

**Joint Water Scheme**—Some further progress has been made. A deputation from the Urban and Rural Districts has interviewed the Liverpool Water Engineer, and the Urban and Rural Councils are now conferring together as to the mode of application which is to be made to Liverpool Corporation for a supply of water to be delivered by the joint main, the Urban District to tap the same at Baddiley, near to the water works.

**Canal Boats**—The Inspector has examined 61 boats, and reported four as unfit for human habitation.

**Nantwich Urban District Council Act** received Royal Assent on 21st July, 1903. It contains important provisions as to milk, infectious diseases, and sanitary matters generally.

J. D. MUNRO.

8TH JANUARY, 1904.